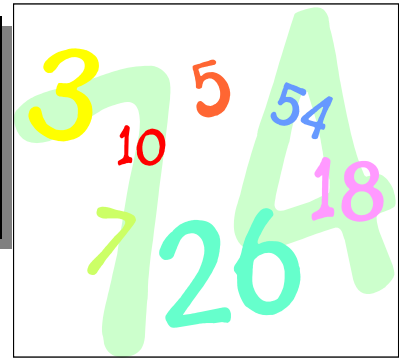


Mrs. M^{ac}Donald's Intermediate Classroom

A Full Week of School



This was another extremely busy week.

VOCABULARY- Students worked on Wordly Wise words and took their first vocabulary/spelling test of these words this week. Both of those tests are in their Friday folders. Everyone did a great job on the definitions. We worked on these words in class and will continue with these vocabulary building exercises.

SPELLING SKILL DEVELOPMENT- This week, I also gave students a spelling check-up. I dictated words that have commonly spelled patterns. This is a diagnostic test for me to see areas of strength and weakness in spelling patterns. After reviewing the results of this testing, I will be doing mini-lessons for review of skills that have not been mastered. One of the areas that showed a small weakness was in doubling the final consonant before adding -ed or -ing. (like in the word hop hopping or in trip tripped). This will be a simple fix with some mini-lessons and practice.

MATH-In Math this week, we worked on reviewing several skills. Students were given addition practice sheets that reviewed the skill of adding two two-digit numbers and subtracting two two-digit numbers. It required patience and thinking. The subtraction had problems with regrouping, but the top of the paper did not say "Subtraction with Regrouping", this caused some students to be confused and just take the smaller number away from the bigger number...whether it was on the bottom or not....we say "bigger on the bottom needs to borrow". We reviewed the skill of regrouping! I am also very pleased to announce that we took a timed math test again on Wednesday...EVERYONE increased their score!!! Keep practicing those math facts to improve the math foundation. Division is much more difficult to master—if you do not have a strong foundation in multiplication. Strong multiplication skills aids in factoring, common denominators, multiples, and division. Please keep these skills strong with fact practice at home.

Science-Electricity continues to be the topic of study. We will review circuits, build our final projects for a complete circuit with anyone that brings in an empty shoebox. Students that do not have an empty shoebox will be assigned to work as a group.

Issue 18

January 19, 2008

Homework

If you have a shoebox to bring to school, please bring it in by Wednesday.

Monday– No School MLK Day

Tuesday: Reading Assignment to come home.

Wednesday: Math practice

Thursday– Practice Wordly Wise words

Electricity slide show from parent night and static electricity experiments in the classroom can be viewed on my website at www.mrsmacdonald.net

Writing. This week we focused our writing skills on Summaries of the chapters of the City of Ember. Students were strongly engaged in this book and showed amazing recall. Through this story, we have worked on sequencing events, retelling the plot, making predictions, summarizing ideas and identifying the main idea.

Our next big writing assignment will be to work on pulling together the information and data that was gathered on the Legacy Project person and making it into a cohesive written work. Most students have turned in their information. Those that still need more time have an extra week or so while I begin working with students one-on-one. Please do not hesitate too long. I personally spend about 30 minutes per book just getting the pictures ready and uploaded to the account for the students to use. It is a very time consuming project for everyone. I feel it is well worth it. I hope you will feel the same way once you see the results.

We are beginning many additional adventures in the classroom.

- Work will begin on the final stage of the Legacy Project
- We will revisit biographies as we write about the Legacy Person
- We will begin learning about the 50 states and work on Ohio History
- We will begin an economy unit which will include creating products to sell to the younger students
- We will be learning about fractions with the help of Chandler Meador from the Middle School class, she is working on this as her EXTRA class.
- We will learn about plants in March, and animals in April.
- We will go on an overnight field trip to the zoo
- We will be taking the IOWA Basic Skills test in March
- The Get Lucky Gala will be in March

My goal as I work with your children is not to COVER what is mandated by the state of Ohio for teaching grades 2, 3 and 4, but instead to UNCOVER this material so that your children want to learn. I love to see the enthusiasm that they have for learning. To hear their excitement as they make puffed rice come off a paper plate onto a balloon—and they know why....negatively charged electrons on the balloon attract the positively charged puffed rice. I love to hear that they want to skip recess—if I will just keep reading the book to them. I even love to hear them grumble that “you always do that...” referring to the fact that I stopped reading and made them take out their snack and go to recess. I love to hear that one of the boys wants to have a “boys night” where they can all come to his house and watch “The Universe” on the History Channel. I also love that when I am handing out math practice sheets for homework, I hear, “Can I have that one too?” or “Is it alright if I take five of them?” They love rocks, they wanted Santa to bring owl pellets????

This group is an amazing group of enthusiastic learners. They embrace learning and absorb information readily. They work hard and always want more! Thank you for all your support in helping me uncover the curriculum for them.